

MOTORCYCLE SAFETY

I. PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Effective January 1, 1992, everyone riding a motorcycle in California is required to wear a helmet that meets established federal safety standards. Although there have been several attempts to have the law amended or repealed, attempts have not succeeded, due in part to data provided by the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) reflecting information before and after implementation of the helmet law.

In 2007, motorcyclist fatalities represented 11.7 percent of California's total traffic fatalities, an increase of 1.4 percentage points from 2006 and an increase of 4.4 percentage points from 2000, when motorcycle fatalities represented only 7.3 percent of total traffic fatalities. Motorcyclist injuries, as a percentage of total traffic injuries, have also been rising, from 2.6 percent in 2000, to 3.7 percent in 2006, and to 4.2 percent in 2007. More alarming than the relative percent of motorcycle fatalities and injuries is the increase in the actual number of motorcyclists killed, from 275 in 2000 to 433 in 2006 and 465 in 2007.

II. ACTION PLANS

OTS is currently a member of the California Motorcyclists Safety Program Advisory Committee chaired by CHP. The committee acts in an advisory capacity for the California Motorcyclists Safety Program which is a statewide motorcycle training program. The program is funded by student training fees and \$2 from each motorcycle registration fee in the state. During 2007, 62,000 motorcyclists were trained through the program.

CALIFORNIA MOTORCYCLE SAFETY SUMMIT

In May 2008, California held its first Motorcycle Safety Summit. The theme of the summit was working together to reduce motorcycle rider injuries and fatalities by 10 percent by 2010. The Summit was attended by members of the law enforcement community, OTS, NHTSA, DMV rider's groups, rider trainer organizations, the medical community, and motorcycle publication representatives.

MOTORCYCLE ASSESSMENT

This evaluation provides the Office of Traffic Safety the opportunity for an outside review of California's motorcycle safety program(s). The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provides a nationally recognized team of experts to evaluate current status and provide recommendations for improvements/enhancements on programs related to motorcycles and motorcycle safety.

III. TASKS

TASK 1 - PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATION

This task provides for the necessary staff time and expenses incurred by OTS that are directly related to the planning, development, coordination, monitoring, auditing, and evaluation of grants within this program area, and the preparation of the 2009 Highway Safety Plan. Assistance is also provided under this task to individuals to attend and participate in committees, training sessions, or educational meetings or conferences.

TASK 2 - MOTORCYCLE PROGRAM ANALYSIS

This task provides for comprehensive evaluation of motorcycle programs in order to improve and develop effective countermeasures to reach the increasing population of motorcyclists.

2010

MC0702 – CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL PROMOTING MOTORCYCLE TRAINING

While motorcycle registrations have increased 20 percent in the last three years, motorcycle licenses have only increased by 10 percent. Statewide, the California Motorcycle Safety Program provides training in motorcycle operations, safety and applicable laws; however, there is no funding to promote the program. This grant will provide a targeted public awareness campaign to bolster public knowledge of the program's availability to motorcyclists. (\$731,174)